

Application No. 10/811,848  
Reply to Office Action of April 17, 2007

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 22-32. These sheets, which include Figs. 22-32, replace the original sheet including Figs. 22-32.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-7 having been amended by the present amendment, and Claims 8-20 having been withdrawn from consideration.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 8-20 were withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention; the drawings were objected to as requiring a legend designation of --Prior Art--; the Specification was objected to because of informalities; Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-282094 to Hidekazu, hereinafter called “JP ‘094”, in view of JP 05-33448, hereinafter called “JP ‘448”; and Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘094 in view of JP ‘448 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Auclair et al. (5,055,056), hereinafter called “Auclair”.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Figures 22-32 are presently amended to include the legend --BACKGROUND ART--. Replacement sheets for Figures 22-32 are attached, whereby the outstanding objection to the drawings is believed to have been overcome.

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification has presently been amended to correct the noted informalities. Accordingly, this ground for objection is believed to have been overcome.

In light of the several grounds for rejection based on the cited prior art, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention and thereby more clearly patentably define over the cited references. Support for the changes to Claim 1 is found in the disclosure

provided by Figures 4-5 and the related discussion at page 14 in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, amended Claim 1 clarifies that in the present invention, at least one of a pin-embedding hole and an anchor pin is formed in a tapered shape. The anchor pin has a path hole to receive a flexible power transmission element. The anchor pin is embedded in the embedding hole under pressure. Therefore, the anchor pin and the path hole are firmly fixed, and the path hole receiving the flexible power transmission element is deformed by the fixing, thereby anchoring the power transmission element to pulleys.

On the other hand, JP '094 discloses a technique in which a locking member 55 fixed to a wire 12 is inserted to a locking recessed part 21 formed on a peripheral surface of a driving pulley 20. A spring tongue piece part 24 is formed as the periphery of the locking recessed part 21. The locking member 55 is held by the restoring force of the spring tongue piece part 24 so that the wire 12 is fixed to the driving pulley 20.

However, JP '094 does not disclose that the locking member 55 or the locking recessed part 21 is formed in a tapered shape, as recited in amended Claim 1. Furthermore, JP '094 neither discloses nor suggests that the locking member 55 is embedded in the locking recessed part 21 under pressure. Therefore, according to JP '094, it is impossible to conceive a mechanism in which the wire 12 is firmly held to the locking member 55 when the locking member 55 is inserted to the locking recessed part 21.

JP '448 discloses a drive pulley 21 which has a fixed groove 52 on an outer circumference thereof, a sectional face of the drive pulley 21 being in a wedge shape, a fixed latch 54 inserted to the fixed groove 52, and a wire 18 fixed to the fixed latch 54. However, JP '448 likewise does not disclose or suggest that when the fixed latch 54 is inserted to the

fixed groove 52, the fixed latch 54 is embedded in the embedding groove 52 under pressure. Therefore, JP '448 fails to obviate a mechanism by which the wire is firmly fixed to the fixed latch 54 when the fixed latch 54 is inserted to the fixed groove 52.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that neither JP '094 nor JP '448 discloses or suggests a structure in which the fixed pin is embedded in the embedding hole under pressure. Therefore, even if these references are combined, it is respectfully submitted that the combined teachings of these references fail to render obvious the claimed subject matter. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of JP '094 and JP '448 are not remedied by the teachings of Auclair.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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